

## **6. Anti-Backsliding Requirements**

CWA Sections 402 (o) (2) and 303 (d) (4) and NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.44 (l) prohibit backsliding in NPDES permits. These anti-backsliding provisions require effluent limitations in a reissued permit to be as stringent as those in the previous permit, with some exceptions where limitations may be relaxed.

## **7. National Toxics Rule (NTR) and California Toxics Rule (CTR)**

U.S. EPA adopted the NTR on December 22, 1992, and later amended it on May 4, 1995, and November 9, 1999. About forty criteria in the NTR applied in California. On May 18, 2000, U.S. EPA adopted the CTR. The CTR promulgated new toxics criteria for California and, in addition, incorporated the previously adopted NTR criteria that were applicable in the state. The CTR was amended on February 13, 2001. These rules establish chemical-specific numeric water quality criteria for priority toxic pollutants for California's inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries, and are codified in 40 CFR sections 131.36 (NTR) and 131.38 (CTR).

## **8. State Implementation Policy**

On March 2, 2000, the State Water Board adopted the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (State Implementation Policy or SIP). The SIP became effective on April 28, 2000, with respect to the priority pollutants criteria promulgated for California by the U.S. EPA through the NTR and to the priority pollutants objectives established by the Central Coast Water Board in the Basin Plan. The SIP became effective on May 18, 2000, with respect to the priority pollutants criteria promulgated by the U.S. EPA through the CTR. The State Water Board adopted amendments to the SIP on February 24, 2005, that became effective on July 13, 2005. The SIP establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutants criteria and objectives and provisions for chronic toxicity control.

### **D. Impaired Water Bodies on CWA 303 (d) List**

CWA section 303 (d) requires states to identify specific water bodies where water quality standards are not expected to be met after implementation of technology-based effluent limitations on point sources. For all such 303 (d) - listed water bodies and pollutants, the Central Coast Water Board must develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads that will specify Waste Load Allocations for point sources and Load Allocations for non-point sources.

The State's current 303 (d) list of impaired water bodies can be found on the State Water Board website at

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2014\\_2016.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2014_2016.shtml) .

There are no impairments listed for the Pacific Ocean or inland surface waters that would affect discharges currently enrolled under this General Permit.

As stated in section I. C of the Order, discharges that contain constituents for which a receiving water is listed as 303 (d) impaired (i.e., discharges that may cause further degradation) are not eligible for enrollment in the General Permit and must obtain an individual permit to discharge.

## E. Other Plans, Policies and Regulations

1. **Discharges of Storm Water.** For the control of storm water discharged from the sites of aquaculture facilities and aquariums authorized by the General Permit, the Order requires dischargers, if applicable, to seek authorization to discharge under and meet the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Order 2014-0057-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CAS000001, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities Excluding Construction Activities* and any applicable successor statewide general order regulating stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities.

## IV. RATIONALE FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

The CWA requires point source dischargers to control the amount of conventional, non-conventional, and toxic pollutants that are discharged into the waters of the United States. The control of pollutants discharged is established through effluent limitations and other requirements in NPDES permits. NPDES regulations establish two principal bases for effluent limitations. At 40 CFR §122.44 (a) permits are required to include applicable technology-based limitations and standards, and at 40 CFR § 122.44 (d) permits are required to include water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) to attain and maintain applicable numeric and narrative water quality criteria to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water. When numeric water quality objectives have not been established, but a discharge has the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion above a narrative criterion, WQBELs may be established using one or more of three methods described at 40 CFR § 122.44 (d): 1) using a calculated water quality criterion derived from a proposed State criterion or an explicit State policy or regulation interpreting its narrative criterion, 2) on a case-by-case basis using USEPA criteria guidance published under CWA Section 304 (a), or 3) using an indicator parameter for the pollutant of concern.

### A. Discharge Prohibitions

1. **Discharge Prohibition III. A** (Discharge of any waste at a location or in a manner different from that described in a Discharger's submitted Notice of Intent (NOI), and as described by the Order, is prohibited.) NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.28 and Water Code section 13263 (i) authorize the issuance of general NPDES permits and general waste discharge requirements to regulate categories of point sources that involve the same or substantially similar types of operations, discharge the same type of wastes, require the same type of effluent limitations or operating conditions, require similar monitoring, and are more appropriately regulated under a General Permit rather than individual permits. The advantage to the Central Coast Water Board in issuing a general permit is that a group of similar dischargers can be regulated by one permit, instead of by individual permits, thereby reducing some administrative burden. Before authorization to discharge under the General Permit can be granted, however, the Central Coast Water Board must be assured that all authorized dischargers have similarities required by the NPDES regulations and the Water Code. The Central Coast Water Board therefore prohibits discharges that are not discharges from aquaculture facilities and aquariums as reported by the Discharger in its NOI or as contemplated by the Central Coast Water Board. This prohibition is retained from the previous Order.
2. **Discharge Prohibition III. B** (Discharges to ocean waters that cause or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to excursions above any numerical water quality objective contained in Table 1 of the Ocean Plan are prohibited). NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.44 (d) require the Central Coast Water Board to establish effluent limitations in discharge permits for toxic pollutants that "are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any State

water quality standard.” Because discharges from aquaculture facilities and aquariums are not expected to contain the Ocean Plan Table 1 pollutants at levels of concern, the Order does not include effluent limitations for any of the Ocean Plan Table 1 toxic pollutants. With this prohibition, the Order, therefore, prohibits discharges containing any of the Ocean Plan Table 1 pollutants at levels of concern to ensure that discharges authorized by the General Permit are suitable for coverage. This prohibition is retained from the previous Order.

3. **Discharge Prohibition III. C** (Discharge to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries that may cause, have a reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above the numeric criteria for priority toxic pollutants contained in 40 CFR Section 131.38 (California Toxics Rule) is prohibited). This prohibition is added to the General Permit to address discharges to inland surface waters and is a standard prohibition for permits regulating discharges to such waters.
3. **Discharge Prohibition III. D** (Discharges containing substances in concentrations that are toxic to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life are prohibited). This prohibition is retained from the previous Order.
4. **Discharge Prohibition III. E** (Discharge of any radiological, chemical, or biological warfare agent or high-level radioactive waste is prohibited). This prohibition is retained from the previous permit and restates a discharge prohibition established in section III. I of the Ocean Plan.
5. **Discharge Prohibition III. F** (Discharge of sludge by pipeline to the Ocean is prohibited. The discharge of municipal or industrial waste sludge directly to the Ocean or into a waste stream that discharges to the Ocean is prohibited. The discharge of sludge digester supernatant, without further treatment, directly to the Ocean or to a waste stream that discharges to the Ocean, is prohibited). This prohibition is retained from the previous permit and restates a discharge prohibition established in section III. I of the Ocean Plan.
6. **Discharge Prohibition III. G** (Discharge of fish pathogens identified in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Aquaculture Disease Control Regulations is prohibited). Due to a significant incident of infestation of an aquaculture facility in the Central Coast Region with the *sabellid polychaete* worm, including infestation of receiving waters, this prohibition is retained from the previous permit. Although the CDFW is primarily responsible for the control of exotic species in the State, through its responsibility to protect beneficial uses of receiving waters, the Central Coast Water Board retains this prohibition to prevent future impairment of marine waters and to assist CDFW in preventing the spread of such fish pathogens.
7. **Discharge Prohibition III. H** (Discharge of active malachite green fungicide is prohibited). Malachite green is a toxic chemical that, in dilute form, has been used as a topical antiseptic or to treat parasites, fungal infections, and bacterial infections in fish and fish eggs. Due to significant health risks posed by this material (it is a suspected carcinogen and teratogen), this prohibition is retained from the previous permit.
8. **Discharge Prohibition III. I** (Discharge to receiving waters designated as an Area of Special Biological Significance is prohibited). This prohibition is retained from the previous permit and restates a discharge prohibition established in section III. I of the Ocean Plan. State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2012-0031 amends the general exception to the California Ocean Plan for selected discharges into Areas of Special Biological Significance.

## B. Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

### 1. Scope and Authority

NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.44 (a) require that permits include applicable technology-based limitations and standards. Where the U.S. EPA has not yet developed technology-based standards for a particular industry or a particular pollutant, CWA Section 402 (a) (1) and U.S. EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 125.3 authorize the use of best professional judgment (BPJ) to derive technology-based effluent limitations on a case-by-case basis. When BPJ is used, the permitting authority must consider specific factors outlined at 40 CFR § 125.3.

There are two sources of technology-based requirements that the Central Coast Water Board has considered for incorporation into the General Permit. One is the *Effluent Limitations Guidelines for the Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source Category* established by U.S. EPA at 40 CFR Part 451 and the second is Table 2 of the Ocean Plan, which establishes technology-based requirements for conventional pollutants (suspended and settleable matter, oil and grease, turbidity, and pH) for industrial dischargers for which effluent limitations guidelines have not been established. Although a limited number of dischargers that may enroll in the General Permit will meet the size (production) threshold for applicability of 40 CFR Part 451, the Central Coast Water Board has nevertheless used BPJ to incorporate the requirements of the effluent limitations guidelines into the General Permit and made those requirements applicable to all dischargers enrolled in the General Permit. The Central Coast Water Board has also incorporated the numeric limitations of Table 2 of the Ocean Plan into the General Permit. Both sources of technology-based requirements, which are described below, include reasonable means to control discharges from aquaculture facilities and aquariums enrolled in the General Permit.

### 2. Applicable Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

The technology-based requirements of the General Permit have been derived from the following two sources.

*40 CFR Part 451 - Effluent Limitations Guidelines for the Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source Category*

Notice Requirements. Dischargers must report the following information to the permitting authority.

- a. The use of an investigational new animal drug (INAD) or any extra-label drug, which may lead to the discharge of the drug to waters of the United States. This reporting is not required for an INAD or an extra-label drug that has been previously approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a different species or disease, if it is used at or below the previously approved dose rate and involves similar conditions of use.
- b. Failure of or damage to a containment system that results in unanticipated discharges of pollutants to waters of the U.S.
- c. Spills of drugs, chemicals, or feed that result in discharges to waters of the U.S.

Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Dischargers with flow-through and recirculating systems must develop and maintain a BMP Plan, which addresses the following activities.

- a. Solids control. The discharger must employ efficient feed management and feeding strategies; identify and implement procedures for routine cleaning of rearing units and off-line settling basins, and procedures to minimize any discharge of accumulated solids during the inventorying, grading, and harvesting of aquatic animals in the production system; and remove and dispose of aquatic animal mortalities on a regular basis.
- b. Materials storage. The discharger must properly store drugs, pesticides, and feed in a manner to prevent spills, and implement procedures for containing, cleaning, and disposing of any spilled material.
- c. Structural maintenance. The discharger must inspect, conduct regular maintenance of, and repair the production and wastewater treatment systems on a routine basis.
- d. Recordkeeping. The discharger must document feed amounts and numbers and weights of aquatic animals to calculate feed conversion ratios, and document the frequency of cleanings, inspections, maintenance, and repairs.
- e. Training. The discharger must train personnel in spill prevention and response and on the proper operation and cleaning of production and wastewater treatment systems.

Dischargers with net pen systems must develop and maintain a BMP Plan, which addresses the following activities.

- a. Feed management. The discharger must use efficient feed management and feeding strategies, which minimize the accumulation of uneaten food beneath the pens. Feed monitoring and management practices may include: use of real time feed monitoring, monitoring of sediment quality beneath the pens, capture of waste feed and feces, or other good husbandry practices.
- b. Waste collection and disposal. The discharger must collect, return to shore, and properly dispose of all feed bags, packaging materials, waste rope and netting.
- c. Feed management. The discharger must minimize any discharge associated with the transport or harvesting of aquatic animals.
- d. Transport or harvest discharge. The discharger must minimize any discharge associated with the transport or harvesting of aquatic animals.
- e. Carcass removal. The discharger must remove and dispose of aquatic animal mortalities on a regular basis.
- f. Materials storage. The discharger must properly store drugs, pesticides, and feed in a manner to prevent spills, and implement procedures for containing, cleaning, and disposing of any spilled material.
- g. Maintenance. The discharger must inspect, conduct regular maintenance of, and repair the production and wastewater treatment systems on a routine basis.
- h. Recordkeeping. The discharger must document feed amounts and numbers and weights of aquatic animals to calculate feed conversion ratios, and document the frequency of net changes, inspections, and repairs.

- i. Training. The discharger must train personnel in spill prevention and response and on the proper operation and cleaning of production and wastewater treatment systems.

*Ocean Plan Table 2*

**Table F-2. Summary of Technology-Based Effluent Limitations**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>Instantaneous Maximum</b>
Oil & Grease	mg/L	25	40	75
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	---	---	60
Settleable Solids	mL/L/hr	1.0	1.5	3.0
Turbidity	NTUs	75	100	225
pH	s.u.	6.0 – 9.0 at all times		

**C. Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs)**

**1. Scope and Authority**

NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.44 (d) require that permits include limitations more stringent than applicable federal technology-based requirements where necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards, including numeric and narrative objectives within a standard. Limitations must control all pollutants or pollutant parameters that the permitting authority determines are or may be discharged at a level that will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards.

The process for determining “reasonable potential” for discharges to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality standard and for calculating WQBELs, when necessary, is intended to protect the designated uses of receiving waters as specified in the Basin and Ocean Plans, and achieve applicable water quality objectives and criteria that are contained in the Basin Plan and in other applicable State and federal rules, plans, and policies, including applicable water quality criteria from the Ocean Plan.

Where reasonable potential has been established for a pollutant, but there is no numeric criterion or objective for the pollutant, WQBELs must be established in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR § 122.44 (d) (1) (vi), using (1) USEPA criteria guidance under CWA section 304 (a), supplemented where necessary by other relevant information; (2) an indicator parameter for the pollutant of concern; or (3) a calculated numeric water quality criterion, such as a proposed state criterion or policy interpreting the state’s narrative criterion, supplemented with other relevant information.

**2. Applicable Beneficial Uses and Water Quality Criteria and Objectives**

Beneficial uses for ocean waters and inland surface waters of the Central Coast Region are established by the Basin Plan and Ocean Plan and are described by Section II. H (Findings) of the Order. Water quality criteria applicable to ocean waters of the Region are established by the Ocean Plan, which includes water quality objectives for bacterial characteristics, physical characteristics, chemical characteristics, biological characteristics, and radioactivity. The water quality objectives from the Ocean Plan and Basin Plan are incorporated as receiving water limitations into this Order. In addition, Table 1 of the Ocean Plan and the California Toxics Rule contain numeric water quality objectives for toxic pollutants for the protection of aquatic life and human health. Pursuant to NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.44 (d) (1), and in accordance with procedures established by the Ocean Plan and State

Implementation Policy, the Central Coast Water Board must establish effluent limitations for those toxic pollutants that are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above applicable water quality criteria.

### **3. Determining the Need for WQBELs**

Procedures for performing a reasonable potential analysis for ocean dischargers are described in Section III. C and Appendix VI of the Ocean Plan, the California Toxics Rule, and the Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California Policy. When effluent data are very limited or not available, as for discharges authorized by Order No. R3-2019-0001, the Central Coast Water Board may decide that WQBELs are necessary after a review of such information as the facility or discharge type, solids loading, lack of dilution, potential toxic effects, fish tissue data, CWA 303 (d) status of the receiving water, or the presence of threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, or other information.

Due to the nature of facilities authorized to discharge under the General Permit, the Central Coast Water Board has determined that there is not a reasonable potential that any of the toxic pollutants listed in the Ocean Plan Table 1 and the California Toxics Rule will be present in discharges at levels that will cause or contribute to excursions above applicable water quality criteria. Instead, the pollutants of concern from authorized facilities include suspended and settleable solids from feeds and feces; residuals of drugs used for maintenance of animal health; and residuals of chemicals used for cleaning equipment or for maintaining or enhancing water quality conditions. In addition, facility discharges are typically intake water that is rapidly flowing through the facilities. The facilities also have every incentive to keep their individuals healthy and if there were toxicity issues the organisms at the facilities would show signs of distress. Therefore, the Order does not establish WQBELs for any of the Ocean Plan Table 1 or California Toxics Rule toxic pollutants. The Central Coast Water Board has also determined that implementation of technology-based requirements will satisfactorily control other pollutants of concern in discharges from aquaculture facilities and aquariums authorized by the General Permit.

### **4. WQBEL Calculations**

This section of the standard permit template is not applicable to the General Permit.

### **5. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)**

Whole effluent toxicity (WET) limitations protect receiving water quality from the aggregate toxic effect of a mixture of pollutants in the effluent. WET tests measure the degree of response of exposed aquatic test organisms to an effluent. The WET approach allows for protection of the narrative “no toxics in toxic amounts” criterion while implementing numeric criteria for toxicity. There are two types of WET tests - acute and chronic. An acute toxicity test is conducted over a short time period and measures mortality. A chronic toxicity test is conducted over a longer period of time and may measure mortality, reproduction, and growth.

Although WET limitations are not established by the General Permit, as described in section V of the Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Executive Officer can require a discharger to perform whole effluent chronic toxicity monitoring based on effluent or receiving water characterization or any other information that leads to a determination that an authorized discharge has a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable water quality criterion.

## **D. Final Effluent Limitations**

Final technology-based and water quality-based effluent limitations established by the Order are discussed in the preceding sections of the Fact Sheet.

### **1. Satisfaction of Anti-Backsliding Requirements**

The Order retains all numeric effluent limitations established in the previous order. Therefore, the effluent limits in this Order are not less stringent than those in the previous order, and the anti-backsliding requirements of CWA Sections 402 (o) (2) and 303 (d) (4) and of NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.44 (l) do not apply.

### **2. Satisfaction of Antidegradation Policy**

Provisions of the Order are consistent with applicable antidegradation policy expressed by NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 131.12 and by State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. The Order does not authorize increases in discharge rates or pollutant loadings, and its limitations and conditions otherwise ensure maintenance of the existing quality of receiving waters.

### **3. Stringency of Requirements for Individual Pollutants**

This Order contains general technology-based requirements as well as technology-based numeric effluent limitations for individual pollutants. The technology-based effluent limitations consist of restrictions on TSS, settleable solids, turbidity, oil and grease, and pH. Restrictions on these pollutants, which are discussed in section IV. B of the Fact Sheet, implement the minimum, applicable federal technology-based requirements and are not more stringent than required by the CWA.

## **E. Interim Effluent Limitations**

The Order does not establish interim effluent limitations and schedules for compliance with final limitations.

## **F. Land Discharge Specifications**

This section of the standardized permit is not applicable to the General Permit.

## **G. Reclamation Specifications**

This section of the standardized permit is not applicable to the General Permit.

## **V. RATIONALE FOR RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS**

### **A. Ocean Water**

Receiving water quality is a result of many factors, some unrelated to the discharge. This Order considers these factors and is designed to minimize the influence of the discharge on the receiving water.

Ocean receiving water limitations within the proposed Order generally include the receiving water limitations of the previous Order; however, these limitations have been supplemented and modified to reflect all current water quality objectives of the Ocean Plan (2015).



## **B. Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries**

Inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries limitations established by the Order include general objectives for all inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries established by the Basin Plan for the Central Coast Region.

## **C. Groundwater**

Groundwater limitations established by the Order include general objectives for groundwater established by the Basin Plan for the Central Coast Region.

# **VI. RATIONALE FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.48 require that all NPDES permits specify requirements for recording and reporting monitoring results. Water Code section 13383 also authorizes the Central Coast Water Board to require technical and monitoring reports. Rationale for the monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), which is presented as Attachment E of this Order, is presented below.

## **A. Influent Monitoring**

Influent (plant intake water) monitoring requirements established by Monitoring and Reporting Program R3-2013-0041 are retained without modification by the Order.

## **B. Effluent Monitoring**

In general, effluent monitoring requirements established by Monitoring and Reporting Program R3-2013-0041 are retained by the Order. To accommodate discharges to inland surface waters, monitoring of effluent for California Toxics Rule priority pollutants and California Code of Regulations, title 22 constituents is included.

## **C. WET Testing**

Whole effluent toxicity (WET) monitoring requirements help to ensure protection of receiving water quality from the aggregate toxic effect of a mixture of pollutants in the effluent. Acute toxicity testing measures mortality in 100 percent effluent over a short test period, and chronic toxicity testing is conducted over a longer period of time and may measure mortality, reproduction, and/or growth. To accommodate discharges to inland surface waters, WET monitoring for discharges to inland surface waters is included.

## **D. Receiving Water Monitoring**

Receiving water monitoring requirements, established by Monitoring and Reporting Program R3-2013-0041, are retained without modification in this Order.

## **E. Exotic Species Monitoring**

Exotic species monitoring requirements, established by Monitoring and Reporting Program R3-2013-0041, are retained without modification in this Order.

## F. Chemical Usage Monitoring/Reporting

Chemical usage monitoring and reporting requirements, established by Monitoring and Reporting Program R3-2013-0041, are retained without modification in this Order.

## VII. RATIONALE FOR PROVISIONS

### A. Standard Provisions

1. **Federal and Central Coast Standard Provisions.** Standard Provisions, which apply to all NPDES permits in accordance with 40 CFR § 122.41, and additional conditions applicable to specified categories of permits in accordance with 40 CFR § 122.42, are provided in Attachment D to the Order.

NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.41 (a) (1) and (b - n) establish conditions that apply to all state-issued NPDES permits. These conditions must be incorporated into the permits either expressly or by reference. If incorporated by reference, a specific citation to the regulations must be included in the Order. 40 CFR § 123.25 (a) (12) allows the State to omit or modify conditions to impose more stringent requirements. In accordance with 40 CFR § 123.25, this Order omits federal conditions that address enforcement authority specified in 40 CFR § 122.41 (j) (5) and (k) (2), because the enforcement authority under the California Water Code is more stringent. In lieu of these conditions, this Order incorporates by reference California Water Code section 13387 (e).

2. **General Order Application and Fees.** In accordance with federal regulations at 40 CFR § 122.28 (b) (2), dischargers seeking to enroll in the General Permit must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered. Dischargers who fail to submit a complete NOI in accordance with the terms of the General Permit cannot gain or retain coverage to discharge and will be subject to all penalties allowable pursuant to the Clean Water Act and the California Water Code.

The deadlines for new and existing dischargers for submitting applications for coverage under the General Permit are retained from Order No. R3-2013-0041. Dischargers enrolled in Order No. R3-2013-0041 before February 1, 2019, are, based on their existing NOIs, automatically enrolled in this General Permit upon its adoption and are authorized to discharge pursuant to the Order when it becomes effective. Dischargers authorized by an individual permit but seeking enrollment under the General Permit are required to submit a completed NOI at least 180 days prior to when enrollment in the General Permit is desired. New dischargers seeking enrollment under the General Permit are required to submit a NOI at least 180 days prior to the planned commencement of the discharge.

An NOI form is included as Attachment B of this Order. If the discharge will be within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), the discharger must also send a copy of the NOI to MBNMS staff for review and approval. The NOI is intended to provide Central Coast Water Board and MBNMS staff with the information necessary for a determination of suitability for coverage or continued coverage under the General Permit. The information required to complete the NOI meets the requirements for NOIs established at 40 CFR § 122.28 (b) (2), satisfies the requirements for a Report of Waste Discharge established by Water Code section 13260, and substitutes for State Water Board Form 200 (General Information Form for Waste Discharge Requirements or NPDES Permits).

General Permit applicants must pay an application fee, and enrollees must pay annual fees. The application and annual fees for this General Permit are specified in the current fee schedule at California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9. Waste Discharge Reports

and Requirements, Article 1. Fees, section 2200(b)(9), Category 3, plus applicable surcharges, as revised. Unless otherwise directed by Central Coast Water Board or State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff, applicants shall submit application fees to the Central Coast Water Board with the application and shall pay annual fees in response to State Water Board invoices issued each year. Fee amounts and payment procedures are subject to change.

3. **Central Coast Water Board Authorization.** NOIs will be reviewed by the Central Coast Water Board staff to determine suitability for enrollment in the General Permit, and authorization will be granted at the discretion of the Central Coast Water Board.

Pursuant to NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.28 (b) (2) (vi), the Central Coast Water Board may authorize a discharger to discharge under the General Permit even if it has not submitted an NOI. This provision is not intended to relieve a discharger of its obligation to submit an NOI. Instead, it is a means with which the Central Coast Water Board can require a discharger who has not submitted an NOI to operate in accordance with the terms of the General Permit.

4. **Transfer of Notice of Applicability.** The NPDES Standard Provision addressing permit transfers, 40 CFR § 122.41 (l) (3), is not entirely relevant to general permits and the NOA framework. Accordingly, a provision concerning the transfer of NOAs is included in this Order. An NOA to discharge in accordance with this General Permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to the Central Coast Water Board by the existing Discharger. The Central Coast Water Board may require the new Discharger to submit an NOI.
5. **Termination of Enrollment.** A Discharger may request to terminate its enrollment in the General Permit by submitting a Notice of Termination (Attachment G of this Order). In accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.28(b)(3)(iii), any Discharger may request to be excluded from coverage under a general NPDES permit by applying for an individual NPDES permit. This request must provide justification supporting this request for an individual permit and reasons why coverage under this General Order is not appropriate. Upon receipt of the request and application for an individual permit, the Executive Officer shall determine if an individual permit should be issued. When the Central Coast Water Board issues an individual permit to a Discharger, the applicability of this General Order to that Discharger is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit. Dischargers shall also request termination of coverage under this General Order when either (a) the facility has ceased operations or (b) the facility's operations have changed and are no longer eligible for coverage under the General Order.
6. **General Order Expiration.** This Order will expire five years after the effective date. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. sections 122.6 and 122.28(b)(2), if the General Permit is not reissued by the expiration date, the conditions of this Order will continue in force and effect until a new general order is adopted. Only those facilities authorized to discharge under this Order at the time of its expiration will remain authorized to continue discharge under the administratively-continued permit conditions.

## B. Special Provisions

### 1. Reopener Provisions

The Order may be modified in accordance with the requirements set forth at 40 CFR parts 122 and 124 to include appropriate conditions or limits based on newly available information or to implement any new State water quality objectives that are approved by the USEPA. As effluent is further characterized through additional monitoring, and if a need for additional effluent limitations becomes apparent after additional effluent characterization, the Order will be reopened to incorporate such limitations.

## **2. Special Studies and Additional Monitoring Requirements**

### **a. Toxicity Reduction Requirements**

The requirement to maintain a Toxicity Reduction Work Plan is retained from Order No. R3-2013-0041. When toxicity monitoring measures chronic toxicity in the effluent above the limitation established by the Order, the Discharger is required to resample and retest, if the discharge is continuing. The Discharger is required to implement toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE) requirements and notify the Executive Officer that it has done so. When all monitoring results are available, the Executive Officer can determine whether to initiate enforcement action, whether to require the Discharger to implement TRE requirements if the Discharger has not already done so, or whether other measures are warranted.

## **3. Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention**

In accordance with NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.44 (k), the General Permit places emphasis on the use of best management practices to control the discharge of pollutants from authorized facilities. A requirement to develop and implement a BMP Plan is retained from Order No. R3-2013-0041 and remains an enforceable condition of the permit. The specific BMPs identified in and required by section VI. C. 3. c of the General Permit are those required by the *Effluent Limitations Guidelines for the Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source Category*, established by USEPA at 40 CFR Part 451. The Central Coast Water Board has determined that implementation of these BMPs by all authorized dischargers is a reasonable mechanism for the control of pollutants discharged from aquaculture facilities and aquariums in the Region.

## **4. Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Specifications**

This section is not applicable to the General Permit.

## **5. Special Provisions for Municipal Facilities (POTWs Only)**

This section is not applicable to the General Permit.

## **6. Other Special Provisions**

### **a. Discharges of Storm Water**

The Order does not address discharges of storm water from the physical sites of aquaculture facilities and aquariums. If applicable, authorized dischargers must seek coverage and comply with General Permit No. CAS000001 - *Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities* and any applicable successor statewide general order regulating stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities.

### **b. Notice Requirements.**

The General Permit establishes notice requirements that reflect requirements of the *Effluent Limitations Guidelines for the Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source Category* and that are triggered by the use of certain drugs in authorized facilities and by incidents of structural failure and spills that may result in a significant discharge of pollutants to receiving waters.

## **7. Compliance Schedules**

The Order does not establish interim effluent limitations and schedules of compliance with final limitations.

## **8. Solid Waste Disposal**

The General Permit requires enrollees ensure that collected screenings, sludges, and other solids removed from liquid wastes be disposed in a manner consistent with Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations and approved by the Executive Officer.

## **VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Central Coast Water Board is considering the issuance of WDRs that will serve as a general NPDES permit for discharges from aquaculture facilities and aquariums. As a step in the WDR adoption process, Central Coast Water Board staff has developed tentative WDRs. The Central Coast Water Board encourages public participation in the WDR adoption process.

### **A. Notification of Interested Persons**

The Central Coast Water Board notified the Dischargers and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations. Notification was provided through posting of the draft order and public notice on the Central Coast Water Board's website, as well as through publication in several regional newspapers: San Luis Obispo Tribune, Monterey County Herald, Santa Cruz Sentinel, and Santa Barbara News-Press.

The public had access to the agenda and any changes in dates and locations through the Central Coast Water Board's website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/)

### **B. Written Comments**

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning tentative WDRs as provided through the notification process. Comments are due by email to [centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov) or in person or by mail to the Executive Officer at the Central Coast Water Board at:

Central Coast Water Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

To be fully considered by the Central Coast Water Board, the written comments are due at the Central Coast Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on **December 10, 2018**.

### **C. Public Hearing**

The Central Coast Water Board will hold a public hearing on the tentative WDRs during its regular Board meeting on the following date and time and at the following location:

Date: **January 31-February 1, 2019**  
Time: **9:00 am**  
Location: **Santa Barbara County Offices**  
**105 East Anapamu Street**  
**Santa Barbara**

Interested persons are invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Central Coast Water Board will hear oral testimony pertinent to the discharge, WDRs, and permit. For accuracy of the record, important testimony is requested in writing.

#### **D. Reconsideration of Waste Discharge Requirements**

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Coast Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., within 30 calendar days of the date of adoption of this Order at the following address, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day:

State Water Resources Control Board  
Office of Chief Counsel  
P.O. Box 100, 1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Or by email at [waterqualitypetitions@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:waterqualitypetitions@waterboards.ca.gov)

For instructions on how to file a petition for review, see:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality/wqpetition\\_instr.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/wqpetition_instr.shtml)

#### **E. Information and Copying**

The supporting documents and comments received in connection the adoption of this General Permit are on file and may be inspected at the Central Coast Water Board offices at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copying of documents may be arranged through the Central Coast Water Board by calling (805) 549-3147.

#### **F. Register of Interested Persons**

Any person interested in being placed on the mailing list for information regarding the General Permit should contact the Central Coast Water Board, reference this General Permit, and provide a name, address, and phone number.

#### **G. Additional Information**

Requests for additional information questions regarding this General Permit and enrollees should be directed to Kayla Nguyen at (805) 542-3874, [Kayla.Nguyen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kayla.Nguyen@waterboards.ca.gov); or Phillip Hammer at (805) 549-3882, [Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov).

ATTACHMENT G

NOTICE OF TERMINATION FORM

NOTICE OF TERMINATION FORM FOR ORDER NO. R3-2019-0001  
NPDES GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG993003  
FOR DISCHARGES FROM AQUACULTURE FACILITIES AND AQUARIUMS

Submission of this Notice of Termination constitutes notice that the owner/operator of facility identified on this form is no longer authorized to discharge treated water by NPDES General Permit No. CAG993003.

I. OWNER/OPERATOR

Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:
Contact Person:	1. <input type="checkbox"/> Owner    2. <input type="checkbox"/> Operator 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator		

II. BASIS OF TERMINATION (Please provide additional detail under Section III)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. All discharges subject to regulation under the general permit were terminated.

Date of termination \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. All treated water discharges previously authorized by the general permit have been redirected to:

\_\_\_\_\_ a. treated water retained on site.

\_\_\_\_\_ b. treated water is discharged to a municipal sanitary sewer system.

\_\_\_\_\_ c. treated water is discharged to evaporation ponds or percolation ponds offsite.

\_\_\_\_\_ d. treated water is reused/reclaimed.

\_\_\_\_\_ e. other, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Discharge of treated water is now subject to another NPDES general permit or an individual NPDES permit.

NPDES Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date coverage began \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. There is a new owner/operator of the identified facility.

Date of owner/operator transfer \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

Has the new owner/operator been notified of NPDES general permit requirements? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

NEW OWNER/OPERATOR INFORMATION

COMPANY NAME\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON\_\_\_\_\_

TITLE\_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_ STATE\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

III. EXPLANATION OF BASIS OF TERMINATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IV. CERTIFICATION:

I certify under penalty of law that all wastewater discharges associated with the identified facility that are authorized by NPDES general permit No. CAG993003 have been eliminated or that I am no longer the owner/operator of the facility. I understand that by submitting this Notice of Termination, I am no longer authorized to discharge wastewater under the general permit, and that discharging pollutants in wastewater to waters of the United States is unlawful under the Clean Water Act where the discharge is not authorized by a NPDES permit. I also understand that the submittal of this Notice of Termination does not release an owner/operator from liability for any violations of the general permit or the Clean Water Act.

PRINTED NAME\_\_\_\_\_

TITLE\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_